

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 091045

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ORIGIN PM-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 CG-00 EA-06 CIAE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CNO

SECDEF

COMNAVELECSYSCOM

COMDT USCG

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 091045

COMNAVELECSYSCOM ALSO FOR PME-119, CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, AS, US, NZ

SUBJ: PROSPECTS FOR OMEGA STATION IN AUSTRALIA

REF: (A) CANBERRA 1127; (B) CANBERRA 2175;

(C) WELLINGTON 0138

1. STUDY HAS BEEN UNDERWAY TO DETERMINE FEASIBILITY OF
ALTERNATIVE SITES FOR EIGHTH OMEGA STATION OTHER THAN
AUSTRALIA OR NEW ZEALAND BASED ON REFS A AND C.
EVALUATION IS BEING EXPEDITED WITH FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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PAGE 02 STATE 091045

BY NAVY PROJECT OFFICE EXPECTED PRIOR MAY 1975. WILL
ADVISE.

2. PARA 7 OF REFTTEL A REQUESTED CLARIFICATION OF EIGHTH STATION COVERAGE IMPACT. YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF ONLY LOCAL IMPACT WAS CORRECT BASED ON TRINIDAD BEING THE "B" STATION. HOWEVER, DUE TO POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS THE PERMANENT "B" STATION IS BEING RELOCATED TO LIBERIA BASED ON PART ON THE AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE WITH GOA THAT ON OMEGA SITE WOULD BE LOCATED IN AUSTRALIA. BY MOVING THE "B" STATION TO LIBERIA THE EAST PACIFIC INCLUDING THE WESTERN UNITED STATES COVERAGE BECOMES MARGINAL WITHOUT THE TASMAN SEA STATION. FIX CAPABILITY IN PHILIPPINES AND SOUTH INDIAN OCEAN ALSO IN MARGINAL WITHOUT EIGHTH STATION. FURTHERMORE, PROPER MAINTENANCE OF THE STATIONS REQUIRES THAT THEY BE PERIODICALLY SHUTDOWN FOR SERVICE. WITHOUT THE PLANNED REDUNDANT COVERAGE PROVIDED BY THE EIGHT STATION, ORDERLY SYSTEM MAINTENANCE AND SIMULTANEOUS CONTINUOUS AVAILABILITY OF NAVIGATION SIGNALS BECOMES DIFFICULT.

3. FY-1976 FUNDS ARE STILL BUDGETED FOR THE EIGHTH OMEGA STATION, BUT ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO REPROGRAMMING IF REALISTIC CONSTRUCTION PLANS ARE NOT ESTABLISHED BY EARLY SUMMER.

4. IN VIEW ABOVE AND PENDING COMPLETION ALTERNATE SITE STUDY, REQUEST EMBASSY CONTINUE EFFORTS TO GAIN FAVORABLE GOA DECISION ON AUSTRALIAN STATION. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY ANTICIPATED FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET BY JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORTED IN REF B. YOU MAY WISH IN ANY APPROACH TO GOA TO REITERATE THE NAVIGATIONAL BENEFITS OF THE STATION TO AUSTRALIAN AND OTHER AIRCRAFT AND SHIPPING. KISSINGER

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